



State of South Carolina
Office of The Lieutenant Governor

André Bauer
Lieutenant Governor

Office on Aging
Cornelia D. Gibbons
Director

Media Advisory:
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**\$10,000 Grant from Lt. Governor's Office on Aging Will
Support Alzheimer's Respite Program in Dillon County**

- **Who:** The Dillon County Council for the Aging, Inc., Executive Director, Joni H. Spivey. Ms. Spivey can be contacted at (843) 774-0089.
- **What:** This local organization that serves senior citizens and their families in your community was recently awarded a \$10,000 grant from the South Carolina Lt. Governor's Office on Aging to begin a Group Respite Care program at the Senior Center in Dillon.
- **When:** On June 28, Lt. Governor André Bauer will personally present the grant award to the leadership of the Dillon County Council for the Aging. Photographs of the award presentation will be available for news organizations unable to attend.
- **Where:** The grant awards ceremony will take place at the Statehouse in Columbia. Lt. Governor Bauer's Office is on the first floor.

More

Background:

For more than 30 years, the Dillon County Council for the Aging has been delivering services to the senior population in Dillon County and their families. Now, with the help of a South Carolina Alzheimer's Resource Coordination Center (ARCC) seed grant, those services will soon include a group respite care program for individuals suffering from Alzheimer's disease.

Group respite programs provide structured activities in a safe, caring environment for individuals suffering from Alzheimer's or related disorders. These programs fulfill a tremendous need for family members and other caregivers by giving them a break from the demands of providing care 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Group respite programs also greatly benefit the individual being cared for, by providing them with social interaction and exercise overseen by trained professionals.

Dillon County Council for the Aging Executive Director Joni H. Spivey will serve as the program's administrator. Spivey brings 30+ years of experience to the job of caring for senior citizens in Dillon County, having worked at the Council since 1975. The project is supported by numerous other agencies in the community that are involved in providing medical and social services, including the Marion-Dillon County Board of Disabilities and Special Needs and the McCleod Medical Center in Dillon.

The Alzheimer's Resource Coordination Center (ARCC) in the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging was created to provide statewide coordination, service system development, information and referral, and caregiver support services to individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders, their families and caregivers. Legislation directs the center to:

- Initiate the development of systems which coordinate the delivery of programs and services
- Facilitate the coordination and integration of research, program development, planning and quality assurance
- Identify potential users of services and gaps in the service delivery system and expand methods and resources to enhance statewide services
- Serve as a resource for education, research and training and provide information and referral services
- Provide technical assistance for the development of support groups and other local initiatives to serve individuals, families and caregivers
- Recommend public policy concerning Alzheimer's disease and related disorders to state policymakers
- Submit an annual report to the Joint Legislative Committee on Aging and to the General Assembly

A detailed demographic look at South Carolina and Dillon County's senior population based on the 2000 federal census can be found at www.scmatureadults.org . The report Mature Adults in South Carolina is a publication of the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging.